

DECISION RECORD  
and  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY

I. Decision:

It is my decision to issue a Letter of Consent to the Federal Highway Administration for issuing a right-of-way use document to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) for the reconstruction, realignment and maintenance of a portion of the Haines Highway, pursuant to U.S.C. Title 23: Highways, Section 317 and Section 107 (d). The right-of-way is located in Sections 21 and 22, T. 28 S., R. 54 E., Copper River Meridian. The right-of-way is 300 feet wide, 2,700 feet in length and the area on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land is 7.47 acres. The portions of the road within this area that are currently existing were transferred to the State of Alaska with the Omnibus deed. These portions have been excluded from the acreage that is listed as lands covered by the Letter of Consent.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The action being consented to will not result in undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The Proposed Action will improve the safety and operational efficiency of the highway. The Haines Highway is a major highway corridor connecting the Alaska Marine Highway with interior Alaska. The upgrade will make this portion of the highway more consistent with the Canadian section. The existing roadway width and design speed are substandard. There are no shoulders, making it dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists who need to pull over to avoid an accident. Snow removal and storage is costly and dangerous. The normal design life of a highway is 20 years. This roadbed is 50 years old. The BLM has no land use planning documents for this area. Under these circumstances the environmental documentation provides the basis for the decision on the proposal (43 CFR 1610.8(b)(1)).

III. Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required. It is my decision to issue a letter of consent for the project.

Case File No.: AA-81908 (2800)  
EA No.: AK-040-99-041

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of subsistence resources, alter the distribution of subsistence resources, or limit subsistence user access from current existing conditions on Federal Public lands. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

/s/ Nick Douglas  
Anchorage Field Manager

September 23, 1999  
Date